



**UNIUNEA NATIONALA A CONSILIILOR JUDETENE DIN ROMANIA  
NATIONAL UNION OF COUNTY COUNCILS OF ROMANIA**

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**Mr. Giuseppe Castiglione**  
**President**  
**Unione delle Province d'Italia - UPI**  
Piazza Cardelli 4  
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Italy

Alexandria, 14th of September 2011

**Dear colleague,**

I learned with great concern about the approval of the Council of Ministers of Italy, on 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2011, of the draft constitutional Law on the abolishment of all Italian Provinces.

This kind of institutional reform that are questioning the role of Provinces in the institutional architecture of the Member States is more than worrisome since it happens in a founding Member State.

I sincerely believe that Local Intermediate Authorities, although invested with different powers throughout Europe, are playing a key role in providing everyday answers to the needs of the population and their territories, in order to be able to face the effects of the financial and economic crisis.

The knowledge the Provinces have because of their proximity and their critical mass make them able to act in the most appropriate and quickest way. In most of the European countries the Local Intermediate Authorities are carrying out innovative initiatives in order to counterbalance the effects of the crisis, having a great reaction and mobilization capacity in front of a wide range of different situations and ensuring their direct involvement in defining the most appropriate strategies and policies.

The European Charter of Local Self-Government have to be taken into account and applied in all EU Member States and we are of the view that, according to the principles of subsidiarity and multilevel governance, the Intermediate Local Level is adding value to competitiveness and potentialities of European territories.

Finally, all the participants present in Rome for the statutory conference of CEPLI (European Confederation of Intermediate Local Powers) on 17 of June 2011 have more than welcomed the suggestion made by the representative of the European Commission in order to strengthen the partnership of the Commission with the Provinces of Europe, officially inviting CEPLI to join the next round table on the future of the cohesion policy that will take place at the end of 2011. This perspective is highlighting and recognizing, in our view, the potential of this institutional level in the territorial European structure and their contribution to the public strategies and policies for regional development and especially in terms of social, economic and territorial cohesion.

Given the above mentioned reasons and principles, I hope that the parliamentary debates that will take place soon in your country will allow the identification of a balanced solution that would materialize in maintaining this level local administration.

**Sincerely yours,**

**Liviu Nicolae Dragnea**  
**President**